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Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Sudanese national dialogue, submitted by Maarij for Peace and Development, a voluntary non-governmental organization with an ECOSOC status within the United Nations

Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development is pleased to present to the Human Rights Council the measures undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Sudan in the framework of the National Dialogue, which was launched last October. All the opposition parties were involved in the national dialogue and the authorities decided to stop the war and achieve national unity and a willingness to turn the cease-fire set formerly a two-month halt to uphold a permanent one and to put the nation above any partisan differences and allow the opposition parties to exercise political activity and allow freedom of expression and the release of political prisoners and the promotion of freedom of expression and media, the government has renewed its call for all the opponents to join the dialogue.

The government has also pledged for a permanent ceasefire and ask the other parties to do the same and to stop the fighting in order to allow the political parties and civil society organizations from exercising their public activities without interference and restrictions. Also invitations were sent out to media and press in an effort to promote freedom of expression and to enable citizen to contribute to the success of the national dialogue.

In addition, the authorities also decided to release all political detainees who were not involved in criminal charges in the public right.

A committee named "7 +7", was charged to coordinate the national dialogue. This committee includes seven of the opposition forces and the same number of partner in power, political parties. This committee revealed that a meeting with President Omar al-Bashir will be held by the end of February, to deliver a progress report of the state of the dialogue and the recommendations of the final committees in preparation for holding of a General Conference.

The Assistant of the President stated that the National Dialogue arrived to its final stage and revealing the occurrence of full agreement on most issues, and expected that the General Assembly and mediators do not need to stop on certain issues because the agreement is comprehensive, pointing out that 99% of the committees have completed their work and some of them handed over the recommendations, noting that interlocutors in the Friendship Hall have made a great effort and put blocks upon which can be built the foundation of the future of Sudan.

He added that the government's efforts to bring stability and peace, whether in Darfur or regions. He showed his confidence for reaching political agreement to lay down their arms, stressing that there is no alternative to it only through dialogue and that the outcome of the National Dialogue and community dialogue are decisions of the Sudanese people and the government will work to implement them. He also praised the efforts of Khartoum State and the High Committee for National dialogue in demanding all to lay arms and to join the dialogue and also to provide an opportunity for all citizens who are not a member of any political party to give their opinions and ideas about the future of Sudan.

In his speech to the Sudanese Center for Press Services, the Committee Chairman, Ibrahim Onur Sudanese, said that the committee discussed a number of themes that is to determine the economic problem and the policies of the economic sector, the equitable distribution of resources, policies of the productive sectors, institutional reform, human development, scientific research, industry knowledge and the private sector and investment.

A member of the Governing Issues Committee within the dialogue conference expected that the results of the dialogue will lead to a lasting peace, a concrete improvement in the Sudanese way of live and a breakthrough in the freedoms. He also revealed that an imminent meeting of the General Assembly for dialogue to discuss forming a national consensus government.

Recommendations:

The efforts of the Sudanese government to bring peace, to stop the fighting, to make the participation of all political factions in the governing of the country possible and promotion the rights of the citizen, are worthy of support.

We recommend your respected Council to consider the efforts of the Sudanese government and to call for the parties abstaining to sit at the dialogue table and join the National Dialogue.